

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



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**Weather:** Cool nights and warm days. Almost no rain kept farmers in the field last week. Foggy conditions were present throughout the early mornings most of last week in Coos and Curry counties, but warm fall temperatures prevailed throughout the week across the eastern and western parts of the State. The nights remained cool across the State as well. The absence of rainfall had farmers in Jackson County yelling "we need rain"!

**Field Crops:** Another week of warm and dry conditions allowed producers to continue fall seeding, tillage, and fertilizer applications. The recent weather has been good for winter wheat emergence in Sherman County. The final cuttings of alfalfa and grass hay were being put up and brought in from the fields across the State. Producers with hay under irrigation may get one more cutting in Josephine County. In Washington County, herbicide and fertilizer was being applied to grass seed fields. Sugarbeet harvest got underway last week in Union County.

**Fruit and Nuts:** Cranberry harvest was underway on the southwestern Oregon coast. Pear harvest continued in the Hood River Valley, where post harvest sulfur spraying continued. Harvest began winding down in the Willamette Valley, in Jackson County, and in The Dalles and Mosier areas in Wasco County. Early apple variety harvest in Yamhill County is complete and harvest of late varieties there should start soon. Apple harvest progressed nicely in other areas of the State. Wine grape harvest continued, with an average size crop reported in Wasco County and improved temperatures for grape harvest in Washington County. Hazelnut harvest progressed well in Marion and Yamhill counties.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Nurseries are busy getting ready for fall weather with lots of watering and plant maintenance. Greenhouses are working with holiday plants and moving fall plants to garden centers. On the southern Oregon coast Easter lily growers continued with harvest, sorting, and shipment of commercial bulbs that will become next years Easter Lilies. Christmas tree growers are getting ready for November harvest and completing the last of tree shearing for this year.

**Vegetables:** Harvest continued throughout western Oregon. Fresh vegetables were still available at Farmer's markets and roadside stands in Jackson County. Josephine County reported harvest was winding down, however pumpkins were bountiful as the truck gardens geared up for the Halloween season. Late blight hurting south Willamette Valley on tomatoes and potatoes. Sweet corn for processing was winding down in Washington County. Onion harvest was about complete and at the sheds. Potato harvest was forty percent complete in Baker County with very good yields. Onion, potato, and carrot harvest continued in Klamath County.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Fall pasture growth continued in areas with adequate moisture. Pastures and rangeland in southwestern Oregon remained very dry and supplemental feeding had started. Cattle continued to be moved into fall and winter pastures areas across the State. Producers were busy working herds and some cows were being culled and marketed. Livestock were reported in good condition throughout the State.

**Crop Progress - Week Ending 10/3/04**

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Winter wheat planted (%)	44	n.a.	40	24
Winter wheat emerged (%)	7	n.a.	14	7
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.9	6.9	n.a.	n.a.

**Soil Moisture - Week Ending 10/3/04**

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	9	34	57	—
Subsoil (%)	19	34	47	—

**Crop Condition - Week Ending 10/3/04**

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Range & Pasture (%)	7	20	32	33	8

**COOS/CURRY:** Cranberry harvest was underway. Commercial harvest (big bulbs that get shipped) of Easter lily bulbs began about September 20. Some bulbs were being shipped. Livestock mostly good. Mostly dry. Days since precipitation of 0.25" or more at Brookings-Harbor: 14 days, at Bandon: 13 days. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 56.4 at Bandon to 55.8 deg F at Brookings-Harbor; highs ranged from 64.6 at Bandon to 68.0 deg F at Brookings-Harbor, and lows ranged from 42.2 at Bandon to 46.9 deg F at Brookings-Harbor. Precipitation ranged from 0.00" at Brookings-Harbor to 0.01" at Bandon. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 47 GDD at Brookings-Harbor to 51 GDD at Bandon. No rainfall this week, with overcast/foggy conditions prevailing throughout the early morning hours much of the period.

**JACKSON:** Ground preparation for fall planting being done, but soil is very dry. Still grass and alfalfa hay being made. Still some apple and pear harvest being done. Grape harvest continuing as grapes reach the correct sugar content. Still lots of fresh vegetables at Farmers markets and roadside stands. Lots of pumpkins being harvested as Halloween approaches. Still lots of corn, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash and melons for sale. Greenhouses busy with late season decorative plants. Nurseries busy getting things ready for fall weather, lots of watering and plant maintenance. Livestock being brought down from higher ranges. Irrigated pasture are doing okay, but the irrigation season is about over and still no rain. Some fall calves showing up in pastures with their mothers. Some supplemental feeding now being done for some livestock. We sure need rain!

**JOSEPHINE:** Weather the same. Very warm days with a light breeze in the evenings. Cooler nights but still growing weather. Harvest continues although we are winding down on most of the summer vegetables. Quality was good in most of the summer vegetables. Pumpkins are bountiful and the truck gardens are gearing for the Halloween season. Vineyards continue to harvest and the wineries are getting lots of grapes this year. Should be a good year for them. Apples are still ripening and plentiful in the marketplace. Blueberries are done and they had a really long season here. Haying is still being done. With irrigation continuing they will probably get one more cutting.

**LANE/LINN/BENTON:** A few winter pears and apple harvest continuing. Hazelnut harvest continues. Still looks like an excellent crop. Walnut harvest continuing. A few small fruits still being harvested but not much. Vegetables still being harvested. Late blight being devastating to tomatoes and potatoes. Some sales of greenhouse and nursery crops. Beautiful fall weather for ground preparation and planting.

**MARION:** Tall fescue seeding mostly finished. Planting perennial ryegrass seed fields and getting ready to plant winter wheat. Herbicide and fertilizer applications being made to established grass seed fields as needed. Hazelnut harvest progressing well. Most orchards picked once and will be swept again. Dry fall is allowing most crop and field work to be done timely. Farmers are planting grass seed.

**WASHINGTON:** Field corn for silage continues. Winter wheat being planted. Fall herbicide and fertilizer applied to grass seed fields and new grass being planted. Crimson clover and red clover seeding continues. Hazelnuts being harvested. Walnuts looking good. Some strawberries at markets. Temperatures improved for grape harvest. Wine grapes going to crushers. Apples being picked; pear harvest about over. Sweet corn for processing winding down. Squash doing well. Processing potatoes. Onions about finished to sheds. Irrigation and rotation continues in greenhouses and nurseries. Fall plants moving; seed beds being prepared. Some growth continues for grass after rains; cattle and calves looking good.

**YAMHILL:** Hazelnut harvest continues smoothly with the sunny weather. Cool nights and warm days have kept the farmers in the fields. Grape harvest continues with a lower quantity and unknown quality. Field work is continuing as is fall planting. Apple harvest of earlier varieties is complete and late varieties will be starting anytime. Prune production seems to have been above average but some orchards were bypassed by processors.

## EASTERN OREGON

**BAKER:** Haying continues. Grain planting underway. Potato harvest about forty percent finished with very good yields reported. Some weaning, pregnancy checking, etc. underway. Some cows being culled and marketed.

**HOOD RIVER:** Fair weather prevailed allowing fruit growers good opportunity to catch up on orchard operations through the Hood River Valley. Pear harvest continued in the upper valley and apples were picked throughout the valley. Growers continued with post harvest sulfur sprays and orchard cleanup throughout the valley.

**KLAMATH:** Very few grains and wheat fields remain unharvested. Favorable warm temperatures helped the final cutting of alfalfa cure. Onion and carrot harvest continues. Last of hay and grain harvests nearing completion. Potatoes are twenty percent harvested.

**LAKE:** Warm, dry conditions continued throughout the week. Cattle continued to be moved to fall and winter pastures.

**MALHEUR:** Ideal harvest weather all week. Dry with temperatures five to ten degrees above normal. Weather forecasts call for more of the same through Thursday of next week. All harvest and fall work activities continues. Fourth cutting of alfalfa is getting cleared out. Potato and onion harvest remain in full swing, with potatoes about 50 percent completed and onions about 75 percent completed. Corn silage harvest is also in full swing. Planting of fall wheat has just gotten underway.

**SHERMAN:** Grain seeding moving quickly. Great weather to get rapid emergence. Looking good although some areas seem “soupier” than others. The moisture is in there but the top layer is awfully dusty. As one grower commented. “It looks like the silt in our silt loam is showing.” Geese have been flying for two weeks but no deer to be found. Suspect cougars eating the deer population despite denials by certain agencies.

**UNION:** Sugarbeets harvest underway. Cold nights and warm days.

**WALLOWA:** Continued warm and dry weather has allowed producers to maintain and finish, in some cases, grain harvest and hay cuttings. No reports yet on amount of sprout damage to grain crops. Range conditions are still good.

**WASCO:** Field cultivation and fertilization continued on summer-fallow ground being readied for winter wheat planting. Cheat grass is growing rapidly on the no-till grain fields and need to be sprayed before wheat planting can start. Grain planting is picking up on high elevation fields that are weed free. Fruit harvest continued in The Dalles and Mosier areas on pears and apples. Wine grape harvest is underway with an average size crop. Alfalfa hay growers are finished for the season and livestock are holding their own on dwindling pasture conditions. Warm fall temperatures prevailed through the week with no rain falling this week.

**WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON - Week Ending October 3, 2004 (as of 11:00 am)**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK'S PRECIPITATION			SEASON CUMULATIVE PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	43	76	57	2	51	12	0.00	-0.90	0	4.29	0.92	127	19
Crescent City	43	63	55	-3	34	-17	0.01	-0.58	1	0.99	-1.07	48	10
Florence	41	71	56	-2	45	-8	0.00	-0.82	0	4.55	1.64	156	9
North Bend	45	66	57	0	52	3	0.06	-0.52	2	5.76	3.66	274	10
Tillamook	40	71	56	0	42	4	0.00	-1.12	0	7.48	3.16	173	14
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Corvallis	43	82	62	6	87	36	0.00	-0.43	0	2.09	0.37	122	9
Eugene	42	79	59	1	64	6	0.00	-0.42	0	2.07	0.21	111	10
Hillsboro	41	85	62	6	86	40	0.00	-0.42	0	1.21	-0.50	71	10
McMinnville	41	86	61	4	81	30	0.00	-0.49	0	1.70	-0.18	90	12
Portland AP	48	81	64	6	103	42	0.00	-0.42	0	1.01	-0.93	52	9
Salem	41	81	61	4	77	28	0.00	-0.43	0	2.08	0.32	118	10
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	44	86	63	3	94	21	0.00	-0.30	0	0.34	-0.72	32	3
Medford	44	89	66	6	115	44	0.00	-0.21	0	0.04	-0.92	4	2
Roseburg AP	45	81	63	4	94	26	0.00	-0.29	0	1.40	0.12	109	9
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	34	80	57	5	52	25	0.00	-0.14	0	0.59	-0.19	76	4
Heppner	42	82	62	7	86	42	0.00	-0.19	0	0.80	-0.10	89	6
Hermiston AP	34	84	59	3	68	17	0.00	-0.07	0	0.18	-0.28	39	3
John Day	31	82	60	7	74	36	0.00	-0.14	0	0.48	-0.41	54	6
Moro	39	83	60	7	73	39	0.00	-0.11	0	0.50	-0.10	83	9
Pendleton AP	42	83	63	6	89	36	0.00	-0.14	0	0.37	-0.29	56	5
The Dalles	42	90	65	11	108	71	0.00	-0.11	0	0.43	-0.18	70	5
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Bend	34	80	56	5	44	20	0.00	-0.07	0	0.93	0.44	190	4
Burns	34	73	57	9	57	39	0.00	-0.13	0	0.27	-0.35	44	5
Klamath Falls	35	80	58	4	55	18	0.00	-0.14	0	0.02	-0.59	3	2
Lakeview	32	81	56	3	42	11	0.00	-0.21	0	0.06	-0.67	8	1
Redmond	29	81	56	4	40	10	0.00	-0.07	0	0.09	-0.34	21	6
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	31	82	56	5	42	17	0.00	-0.14	0	0.77	-0.02	97	5
Joseph	32	80	56	9	44	31	0.00	-0.35	0	1.87	0.35	123	8
La Grande AP	32	84	58	4	57	19	0.00	-0.23	0	0.68	-0.35	66	6
Union	33	81	58	6	57	27	0.00	-0.21	0	0.86	-0.26	77	9
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	42	84	63	7	94	45	0.00	-0.09	0	0.31	-0.26	54	3
Rome	40	85	62	8	86	48	0.00	-0.12	0	0.49	-0.15	77	4

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday, September 1, 2004.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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